AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION PERSONNEL TO MEET FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Virginia's county agricultural and home demonstration agents will meet next week at VPI for their annual conference with resident staff members of the VPI Agricultural Extension Service.

During the sessions, which will run Monday through Friday, they will be briefed on the latest developments in farming and homemaking, and will study such topics as Extension policy, communications, and program development.

They also will hear discussions on Virginia's proposed farm and home development program which is being made possible by additional Federal appropriations of $205,638. At least 85% of the money will be used to boost agriculture in the field, mainly from the standpoint of additional personnel.

The annual banquet will be held Monday night. Tuesday morning's speakers will include: D. E. Carrigan, dean of agriculture, University of Vermont; L. B. Dietrick, VPI's dean of agriculture; and W. H. Daughtrey, associate director, VPI Extension Service.

Wednesday morning a subject session on communications will be held, with Stanley Andrews, executive director, National Project in Agricultural Communications, East Lansing, Michigan, as principal speaker. Annual meetings of the Virginia Agricultural and Home Demonstration Agents Associations are planned for Wednesday afternoon.

Thursday mornings' speakers will include Frank Peck, Farm Foundation, Chicago; and Claude L. Welch, National Cotton Council of America, Memphis.

In closing sessions Friday morning, the group will hear J. E. Crosby, Jr., directorfi U. S. Department of Agriculture Division of Agricultural Programs; Mr. Daughtrey and other members of the Virginia administration.

On May 24, 1830, the first train drawn by a steam engine rolled down 12 miles of track on the B. & O.

CHAS. T. MOSES PRESENTED AWARD BY CHEVROLET

In recognition for his service on the Chevrolet National Dealer Planning Committee, C. T. Moses, of Moses Motor Co., Appomattox, Va. (left) is presented a special emblem by I. X. Sarvis, assistant general sales manager of Chevrolet. The award was made during the committee's recent two-day meeting in Detroit.

How To Increase Feed Supply

Good farm practices are insurance against unfavorable conditions.

Farm specialists at VPI point out that the drouth in June and July has reduced the yields of pasture, forage crops, and corn to the point that many farmers will be short of winter feed unless they make a special effort to save all feed crops that can be harvested, and to increase fall yields of pastures and forage crops.

Here are some suggestions:

If the drouth has prevented grain from forming on corn, make silage of the fodder in an upright, trench, or other type of silo. Small grain or rye grass and crimson clover can be seeded early for grazing on this land.

Topdress permanent pastures with from 30 to 50 pounds of nitrogen in August. If the pasture was not topdressed with enough phosphorus and potash last winter or spring, apply enough 5-10-10 or 10-10-10 fertilizer, or the equivalent, to bring the nitrogen applied to between 30 and 50 pounds. This will give additional grazing this fall and early next spring.

Topdress grass meadows with from 30 to 70 pounds of nitrogen in August. If the meadows have not been adequately topdressed with a complete fertilizer within the last year, then topdress with 500 to 700 pounds per acre of a 10-10-10, or the equivalent in a 1-1-1 ratio fertilizer, instead of nitrogen alone.

Topdress alfalfa with 600 to 1,000 pounds of 0-10-20 as soon as it has been cut or grazed, if it was not topdressed within the past year.

Graze one cutting of alfalfa if you are short of pasture. Put enough animals on to graze it down to 2 inches high in a week to 10 days, then remove the animals. It may be necessary to graze the field in strips. If necessary, other hay crops that have not already been cut and stored for hay may be grazed.

Seed small grain for late fall, winter, and early spring pasture and for grain. Seed during August or early September. Use a mixture of 2 to 4 bushels of small grain per acre. You may want to add 15 pounds of rye grass and 15 pounds of crimson clover in eastern Virginia. Fertilize with 600 to 700 pounds of 10-10-10 fertilizer per acre.

Seed small grain in lespedeza or lespedeza-grass pasture or on poor stands of alfalfa during August or September.

Fertilize small fields for grain with 600 to 800 of 5-10-10 fertilizer and plan to graze in fall and early spring. Take animals off before small grain begins to joint and start upright growth. If grazed later grain yields will be reduced.

Seed rye grass in unproductive ladino-tall grass pasture where the clover has disappeared and the grass is thin. Disk lightly and seed 20 to 30 pounds of rye grass per acre. Fertilize with 300 to 600 pounds of 10-10-10.

If possible, remove animals from a part of fescue or other pasture that has been topdressed with 30 to 50 pounds of nitrogen or 500 to 800 pounds of a 5-10-10 or 10-10-10 or equivalent, to let the grass accumulate. Use this pasture for late fall grazing after your other pasture is gone.

SOIL SAMPLING IS ON INCREASE

Farmers are making increasing use of the soil sampling facilities at VPI laboratories.

W. W. Lewis, agronomist, reports there were 33,314 soil samples tested for county agents and other agricultural workers for the period July 1, 1953 - June 30, 1954. This is an increase of 7,259 over the corresponding period last year.

In addition, 19,196 tests were made for the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation office.

The 10 high counties for the current year were: Pittsylvania, with 1,415 samples; August, 1,066; Nansemond, 887; Frederick, 878; Southampton, 805; Carroll, 718; Montgomery, 714; Mecklenburg, 708; Wythe, 703, and Rockbridge, 677.

Lewis says farmers are being encouraged to send in samples now from fields where crops are to be seeded this fall. Soil record sheets, shipping cartons, and soil boxes are available from county agents. It is most important, Lewis says, to make a good, accurate sample, and the revised soil record sheets, available from county agents, give detailed instructions for doing so.

VEPCO NAMES NEW HOME ECONOMIST FOR THIS AREA

Miss Audrey Mae Sanderson, of Carterville, Virginia, has been appointed home economist of the Virginia Electric and Power Company for the Farmville-Crewe area, it has been announced by A. C. Brown, Vepco's manager at Farmville.

Miss Sanderson attended Madison College, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Education in June, 1954. During the past two months she has been in training at Vepco's Home Service Department in Richmond.

Miss Sanderson's headquarters will be at Farmville, but she will spend a good portion of her time in Crewe, where Vepco recently installed a modern, all - electric kitchen.

She will also make frequent trips to Appomattox County.

PREVENT LATE BLIGHT ON TOMATO CROP

Late blight, one of the more serious diseases on tomatoes, must be prevented rather than cured.

Gardening specialists at VPI say it is important to start a spray or dusting program as soon as the disease is suspected. The copper sprays or dusts give good control when used at 7- to 10-day intervals and after each rain. There are several trade names for these materials. They contain different amounts of copper, so follow the directions of the manufacturer.

Other materials give satisfactory control when used as directed by the manufacturers. Some of these are Z-78, Parzate, Captan, and Manzate. Thorough coverage is important.

This is the time of the year to expect late blight if a period of cool damp, cloudy weather prevails. The first symptoms of the disease are irregular, greenish-black, water-soaked patches on the older leaves. These spots grow rapidly and sometimes show a white, downy growth of the fungus on their lower surfaces.

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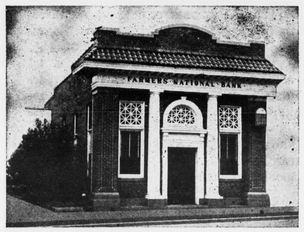

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BIBLE SPEAKS

International Division, Bible School Lessons

By KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Text: Acts 20:35; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Corinthians 8:1-9 Reading: Philippians

Growing by Giving

Lesson for August 22, 1954

GREAT deal of "giving" is not giving at all. When two persons give each other Christmas presents, it is more rightly called exchange than giving. When the Lions Club or other community club has come along and the household-helper in his few days just so he can be reunited. keep from thinking that is giving, it is a form of tax. When the higher court of Presbytery Board or a Bishop lays upon congregation an assessment, or some church campaign for a certain amount is "allotted" to a congregation or an individual member, that still is not giving, but more like a tax. You rightly call it "giving" only when it is freely done, out of sheer love, and without desire of return.

Dr. Foreman

Giving Personality

When a church invites you to give, it is one of the causes it supports. It is doing a great deal more than asking you to shell out some cash. You are being invited to share and invest your personality, no less. There is a hymn that says, "If you cannot cross over and the heathen lands with you may find them at your door. Well, you cannot cross the Pacific. You may be much needed to learn Korean or Portuguese. But your money can cross the sea. Your money, given to the mission," represents your own time, your own energy and earnings, put into portable form. And portable form it becomes (to use the instance) of the salary of a young man and his wife who are missionaries in Korea or some other country. They may be evangelistic missionaries, preaching where you could never preach. Or they may be medical missionaries, performing operations you never could do. Whatever they are, and wherever they are, doing what they do, because of the gifts which others have given through the church. Your personality, with those gifts, would be tied down to your little Main Street; your personality through those gifts reaches out to the far corners of the earth.

Giving to Yourself

In true giving, you not only invest your personality but your personality itself grows. Paul in writing to the Corinthian Christians said he knew so well, gives them credit for their faith, for their ability to express their faith in words, for knowledge, enthusiasm, and love for him. Now you would think that persons who had these good qualities so that they were sparkle, not too easily pleased, was delighted with them. But he need to further improve-ments. They were good enough. But he thinks of one thing more. Could you not add generosity to these graces?" he asks. (Philippians 8:7.) The minute you read that you can see the point. A person's generosity is not so much a person as the same person with generosity added. Long after the body has ceased to grow, the mind can grow by his increase in the graces of giving."

The Stingy Are Stunted

On the other hand, the stingy are stunted. They are stunted because their foresight is poor,— the eye-sight of their mind, that is. All people see is themselves, maybe their families. But they cannot see the needs of other people at all; and, contrary they never see that they are, but only as a matter of income for themselves. They are stunted because they do shrink more and more into themselves. Stinginess if left alone will shrivel up a man's soul as with a blight. A layer of cobwebs till the soul can scarcely breathe. The stingy man ends by being stingy with himself. He becomes a miser. Money comes to be the only thing in the world for him. He starves by not feeling the needs of others. He ends by not feeling his own. He will go without things that he needs because even the stinginess to say nothing of the pain it gives him to the bone. He becomes so stingy because he finally loses all sense to a regular human being. He becomes no more than a mechanical piggy-bank. You put money into him but you can't get it out. You would hardly believe that this poor shriveled thing has been made in the image of God.

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HOG PRICE ESTIMATE REVISED, DOWNWARD

There are more pigs going to market than most people thought there would be, and consequently hog prices will be adversely affected for the rest of 1954.

Dr. J. L. Maxton, asociate agricultural economist at VPI, points out that the U. S. Department of Agriculture has revised its estimates for the spring pig crop as now being 13% more than in 1953. So, Dr. Maxton says, it becomes necessary to revise the price estimates.

Usually hog prices hit a peak in July and August, and then drop as marketings increase, to hit a low in December. However, hog prices this year hit their peak in April. This early peak resulted from many producers holding back hogs normally sold from February to April and at the same time feeding these hogs to heavier weights. Since May, more heavier hogs have been marketed, while demand by consumers has been slow because of the intense heat throughout the country, relatively high pork prices, and heavy supplies of other meats at lower prices.

The revised estimates of USDA show enough of an increase in hog numbers to keep markets fully supplied at present prices and cause further later declines. More sows than usual farrowed from December, 1953 to March 1954, so larger than usual marketings may be expected in the next three months. This should result in prices declining to about 16c or 18c by late October for lean hogs of preferred weights. Hog prices should not decline much after October, and may show a little strength in January, 1955.

Since the fall pig crop of 1954 also is up 10 to 15 per cent as a result of increases in the June to August farrowings, prices may advance only 1 to 3c in January. Marketings in February and March may again be so heavy as to cause some slight further price declines.

The hog marketing situation pricewise is being further aggravated by heavy supplies of cattle, broilers, and turkeys.

"If there was ever a time for consumers to eat more meat, that time is here," Dr. Maxton says. Prices from normal handler margins should be such that per capita consumption of meat will increase with normal price declines at retail and little change in consumer incomes until early 1955. "The meat lover should have a field day," the economist says.

CHEMICAL EXTENDERS GIVE INSECTICIDES LONG KILLING POWER

Adding chemical "extenders" to some insecticides greatly increases the time they remain lethal against insects.

Dr. J. O. Rowell, entomologist at VPI, reporting on U. S. Department of Agriculture tests, says DDT oil solution sprayed on the foliage of spruce and pine trees was effective against flies for less than 15 days. However, when methyl ethyl ketone was used instead of oil as solvent for DDT, spray residues on the foliage killed flies for 60 or more days.

Similarly, the lasting effectiveness of other insecticides, such as aldrin and lindane, was improved by adding chlorinated terphenyls (a resin-like material) to the spray. When used as normal oil or emulsion sprays, aldrin and lindane retain their fly-killing ability less than 10 days under outdoor weather conditions. In combination with the chemical extender, they provided nearly perfect fly control for more than 102 days.

The researchers who carried on these studies applied the test sprays to pine and spruce trees. At intervals twigs were cut from the sprayed trees and taken into the laboratory to be tested against flies.

During the test period, begun last fall, daily temperatures varied from as high as 80 degrees to as low as 23 degrees F. More than 8.5 inches of rain and snow fell during the period.

SOYBEAN PLANTING STUDY UNDERWAY AT WARSAW

What are the best planting dates, rates, and row widths for soybean varieties maturing at different dates? A study underway at the Warsaw branch of VPI Agricultural Experiment Station aims to answer that question.

Researchers say preliminary results of the test indicate that: beans planted at 3 pecks per acre will yield as much as beans planted at 5 to 7 pecks.

May 15 to June 10 is the best planting date range for highest soybean yield in the Warsaw area; and 36-inch rows yield as much as 12 or 24-inch rows if planted at the recommended date. Early varieties planted late will give higher yields on closer row spacings.

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